



# Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

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The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind is a state agency that provides a wide range of social and rehabilitation services to Massachusetts residents of all ages who are legally blind. (25,000 registered)

The agency has a vocational rehabilitation program, separate from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, for persons who are legally blind. In addition, MCB rehabilitation teachers, mobility instructors, and assistive technology specialists work with agency rehabilitation counselors and workforce partners to ensure that workplaces are accessible and that consumers who are blind have these specialized wrap-around skills to succeed in employment.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors meet consumers in their homes, workplaces, one-stop centers, or other convenient locations. All staff have the ability to meet virtually as well if a consumer is more comfortable or needs to use this method of communication.

MCB plans to increase collaboration with core WIOA partners including working with MRC on a joint Pre-ETS procurement and developing new supported employment opportunities for persons who are blind with other significant disabilities.



MCB has developed a guide for Massachusetts business employers on tax incentives available for hiring individuals with disabilities.

MCB has developed virtual soft skills training for prospective student interns and job-ready consumers. This has been invaluable during the pandemic.

MCB's internship program has continued throughout the pandemic with 65 consumers completing internships (about half with virtual work) this past summer.

MCB staff will continue to cooperate closely with meet frequently with workforce staff at both the state and local levels, with MOU and infrastructure cost-sharing agreements and the involvement of MCB regional staff on local MassHire Workforce Boards to bring the MCB consumer "voice" to the table.

MCB will continue to offer assistive technology assessments, staff training at MassHire Career Centers to help them: understand accessibility requirements, plan for needed hardware and software upgrades, and work with legally blind and visually impaired consumers.



## MCB Rehabilitation Council Participation in Development of Modified Plan

- Held a public hearing for consumer input.
- Developed RC input into modified plan, including hearing input.
- Reviewed agency reported progress toward previous goals.
- Developed new mutually-agreed upon goals and priorities with MCB.